

I think we are going to have to work at it at both ends. What disturbs me even more is if this special legislation gets into the constitution for the farmer who is in trouble, it in turn will compound the problem of the aged and the indigent who, I might add here, has the speculator at his door, too. There are many here who know people in this category who are holding on to their households really day by day by sheer tenacity. What are we going to do about this group? Would it not be compounded if this whole ball of taxation falls against them because of some of the issues that were clarified with questions asked of Mr. Case? For this reason, I am going to support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of this Convention, it is with great reluctance that I rise to state my position and ask that you carefully consider it for a moment with me.

Because I represent a class of farmer in the State of Maryland which is somewhat different from the broad picture that comes to mind as the word "farmer" is used.

I must confess to a very personal and deep interest in this subject matter, one which really is almost a matter of survival. Twenty years ago, I inherited approximately 650 acres of land, the tax on it at that time was \$800. I am now paying approximately \$5,000 per year in taxes both by way of the improvements upon that property as well as the increase in the assessment on the value of the land itself.

It would be impossible in the limited time which I have to answer each of the questions which have been asked so I make no plea of eloquence but I try to answer the questions.

Delegate Scanlan, I do not derive the principal sources of my income from this farm because I am in Prince George's County, where the practice of law has been a profitable one, well in excess of that from the farm operation. However, this farm has moved forward. It was principally devoted to tobacco a few years ago when we were raising approximately 150 acres of tobacco. Now that tobacco base is 50 acres.

Diversification has been absolutely necessary in order to survive. Therefore, have come the raising of thoroughbred horses, of cattle, and other grains.

I say to you that in the course of a year there are over 500 persons with whom I

have no personal acquaintance other than that which is formed at the time they come to visit this place who come there because they are interested in it and want to see it continue as it is. They come on garden tours, they come individually, they come merely because they are interested in horses —

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-half minute.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: — interested in the tobacco itself. I say to you if this recognition in the constitution is removed, if the legislature is not able to deal with each of us who are devoted to agricultural purposes in a way that can preserve us, we will as you attempt to eliminate the speculator be sacrificed and go down the drain as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired, Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: From the walls have come whispers, I say to you the whispers are dying and will fade away if you do not include this provision in the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Mr. Chairman, Delegate Scanlan asked the question before, an important one, many of us are quite concerned about it, I will yield the remainder of my time to Delegate Case so that he may answer it.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have no time to yield to Delegate Case. The Chair will recognize Delegate Case at the proper time.

Does anyone desire to speak in favor of the amendment? The Chair recognizes Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee: First, let me say that inadvertently I have been misquoted here today by Delegate Hardwicke and others and I would like to set the record straight in this final speech before you vote so that at least you know exactly where each of us stands.

First, the proposed amendment by the Committee will reverse or change the result in the Alsop case, thereby permitting the General Assembly to establish criteria other than the use of the land in establishing whether the farm assessment shall carry.